

***With Honor,
Pride and
Patriotism***

**VA Medical Center
Veterans Day Parade**

**Carl N. Karcher
Business Community Grand Marshal
2002 Veterans Day Parade**

Carl N. Karcher was born in Sandusky, Ohio. Karcher was drafted by the United States Army on May 5, 1945. He received his basic training at Camp Roberts, California. After basic training, Private First Class Carl Karcher was stationed at Camp Beale, Marysville, California, where he served as a cook.

Prior to his service in the Army, Mr. Karcher had begun his business career in 1941 with the purchase of a hot dog cart with money he borrowed on his car. In January 1945, Karcher opened Carl's Drive-In Barbecue in Anaheim, California. It would be another decade before Karcher opened the first Carl's Jr. restaurant in 1956.

Today, that hot dog cart has grown to include nearly 3,500 restaurants operating under several branded names. Through its subsidiaries and franchises, CKE Restaurants, Inc., currently operates 970 Carl's Jr. quick-service restaurants, including 198 Carl Jr./Green Burrito dual-brand locations in 12 Western states, Mexico and the Philippines; 2,544 Hardee's quick-service restaurants in 34 states and 11 foreign countries. The company employs approximately 35,500 people and annual system-wide sales totaled \$3.16 billion in fiscal year 2001. In addition, Carl's Jr. was one of the first chains to introduce a debit card payment system, inviting customers to use their ATM card in the restaurants.



Karcher is an active supporter and board member of many non-profit groups and encourages community involvement within the company he founded. He chaired the 1978 and 1979 Orange County United Way campaign and raised more than \$18 million. He has become a lifelong supporter of groups such as Providence Speech and Hearing Center, Lostonnac Free Clinic, St. Jude Hospital Foundation, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America and many others.

The 85-year-old Karcher has been married to his wife Margaret for 60 years. They have nine daughters, four sons, 48 Grandchildren and 27 Great-Grandchildren. The Karcher's reside in Anaheim, California.